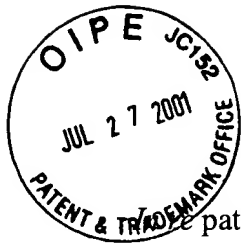


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE TECH CENTER 1600/2900



patent application of

Heinrich HEIDTMANN et al.

Serial No. 09/256,237

Filed: February 24, 1999

For: NUCLEIC ACID CONSTRUCT FOR EXPRESSING ACTIVE SUBSTANCES  
WHICH CAN BE ACTIVATED BY PROTEASES AND PREPARATION AND USE

Attorney Docket No. 38005-0087

Group Art Unit: 1642

Examiner: M. Davis

#14  
8/4/01

Reply and Amendment under 37 CFR §1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants herein respond to the Office Action mailed January 30, 2001 (Paper No. 11). Applicants also petition for a three-month extension of time, and provide the requisite fee herewith. Please debit any underpayments, or credit any overpayments, to firm deposit account no. 08-1641.

R E M A R K S

Applicants hereby claim the priority of German Patent No. 19701141.1 filed on January 16, 1997, and submit herewith a certified and translated copy of said application.

Applicants maintain their position that upon a finding of allowability of claim 25, rejoinder of claim 19 with the other claims of group III is mandated by MPEP §821.4 and U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Procedure, as discussed in the Amendment and